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## Assessing Factors Affecting Sustainable Food Value Chain Development: A Case of the Agricultural Sector in Dong Nai Province

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**Abstract:** Agricultural sector plays a strategic role in the process of economic development of a developing country such as Vietnam. It has already made a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of advanced and developing countries and its role in the economic development of less developed countries is of vital importance. We can see that increase in agricultural production and the rise in the per capital income of the rural community, together with the industrialization and urbanization, lead to an increased demand in industrial production. Besides, agricultural developments are not alternatives but are complementary and are mutually supporting with respect to both inputs and outputs. The agriculture sector is the backbone of an economy which provides the basic ingredients to mankind and now raw material for industrialization. The study results showed that there were 400 persons (include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30 experts) related to agricultural sector in Dong Nai province who interviewed and answered about 17 questions. The Data collected from June 2016 to April 2017. This study had been analyzed Cronbach's Alpha testing used for the next research. Persons' responses measured through an adapted questionnaire on a 5-point Likert scale (Conventions: 1: Completely disagree, 2: Disagree, 3: Normal; 4: Agree; 5: completely agree). Hard copy and online questionnaire distributed among 200.000 persons related to agricultural sector in Dong Nai province. The Data processed by SPSS 20.0.

**Keywords:** Food, farmer, value chain, development and LHU.

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the basic source of food supply of all the countries of the world whether underdeveloped, developing or even developed. Due to heavy pressure of population in underdeveloped and developing countries and its rapid increase, the demand for food is increasing at a fast rate. If agriculture fails to meet the rising demand of food products, it is found to affect adversely the growth rate of the economy. Raising supply of food by agricultural sector has, therefore, great importance for economic growth of a country.

After 27 years of reform, Vietnam's agriculture has made significant achievements and developed into a very key sector in Vietnam's economy. Despite market difficulties, natural disasters, diseases, agricultural production remain relatively good growth rate. Agriculture products have provided abundant food and alimentation, assured the national food security. Prices of agricultural products in Vietnam, especially food prices remain low, resulting in low labor cost, which helps attract foreign investment and therefore make important contributions to economic growth and social stability. Besides, agricultural development is fundamentally based on exploiting the natural resources (growing cultivating land surface etc) and consuming high quantities of input materials but low technology. The low development quality is exposed by the high loss level after harvest, uneven quality of products, unsafe food sanitation and low capability in creating new added values. The above mentioned things, the researchers had chosen topic *“Assessing factors affecting sustainable food value chain development: a case of the agricultural sector in Dong Nai*

*province”* as a paper for finding out key factors affecting the sustainable food value chain development.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

**The sustainable food value chain development (SFVCD):** The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2014) showed that The SFVCD paradigm starts from the premise that food insecurity is a symptom of poverty. If households always have sufficient financial resources (income, wealth and support) to meet their needs, they create the effective demand that drives the supply of food. On the supply side, improvements in the food system driven by competition can reduce the cost of food to the consumer or increase its nutritional value without increasing its price.

The SFVCD reducing the cost of food will have a strong effect on poverty when food accounts for a large portion of household expenditure for a large part of the population, as is the case in most developing countries. Addressing hunger sustainably and in the long term thus implies addressing both an underperforming economic system and an underperforming food system. SFVCD plays a central role in this process, but needs to be accompanied by the development of sustainable non-food value chain (VCs) and by programs that improve the enabling environment, facilitate self-employment and strengthen social protection. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2014).

**Government:** Jacoby, David (2009) studied *“Guide to Supply Chain Management: How Getting it Right Boosts*

Corporate Performance”. A government had many policy statements that are a declaration of a government's political activities, plans and intentions relating to a concrete cause or, at the assumption of office, an entire legislative session. In certain countries they are announced by the head of government or a minister of the parliament.

**Enterprises:** Kaplinsky R. (2000) studied “Spreading the gains from globalization: what can be learned from value market chain analysis”. Enterprises develop and use business information systems to satisfy their information needs. The information needs of a business enterprise are determined primarily by (a) the nature of business functions or activities, and (b) the process of managerial decision making followed by the business managers.

It is, thus, imperative to understand the information needs of business with regard to various business functions or activities and the process of managerial decision making in vogue, in a given enterprise. The business functions or activities and managerial decision making process vary from one enterprise to another, so would the information need.

The functions of a typical business enterprise can be broadly classified into the following categories: (1). Marketing function; (2). Finance function; (3). Production function; (4). Human Resources Management function and (5). Information function.

Information needs of a business enterprise can, thus, be identified under these broad functional areas. However, at the very outset it is essential to point out that the present market realities suggest that the focus of all business functions should be the customer. Each of the functions of business should, therefore, aim at goals such as reducing costs, streamlining processes, maintaining good relations with customers, reducing cycle times, maintaining high degree of quality control, customizing products and services, catering to niche markets, etc.

For attaining these goals a manager needs information, services and networks that would enable him to focus on customers. Most important of such information, services and networks are discussed below with special reference to each of the functions of business.

**Scientist:** De Silva D.A.M. (2011) studied “Value chain of fish and fishery products: origin, functions and application in developed and developing country markets”. Scientist is a person engaging in a systematic activity to acquire knowledge. In a more restricted sense, a scientist may refer to an individual who uses the scientific method. The person may be an expert in one or more areas of science. This article focuses on the more restricted use of the word. Scientists perform research toward a more comprehensive

understanding of nature, including physical, mathematical and social realms.

Philosophy is a distinct activity that is not generally considered science. Philosophers aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of intangible aspects of reality and experience that cannot be physically measured.

Scientists are also distinct from engineers, those who design, build, and maintain devices for particular situations; however, no engineer attains that title without significant study of science and the scientific method. When science is done with a goal toward practical utility, it is called applied science. An applied scientist may not be designing something in particular, but rather is conducting research with the aim of developing new technologies and practical methods. When science is done with an inclusion of intangible aspects of reality it is called natural philosophy. Science and technology have continually modified human existence through the engineering process. As a profession the scientist of today is widely recognized. Scientists include theoreticians who mainly develop new models to explain existing data and predict new results, and experimentalists who mainly test models by making measurements though in practice the division between these activities is not clear-cut, and many scientists perform both tasks.

**Farmer:** Angel Gurría (2012) studied “The Emergence of Global Value Chains: What Do They Mean for Business”. Farmer (also called agriculture) is a person engaged in agriculture, raising living organisms for food or raw materials. The term usually applies to people who do some combination of raising field crops, orchards, vineyards, poultry, or other livestock. A farmer might own the farmed land or might work as a laborer on land owned by others, but in advanced economies, a farmer is usually a farm owner, while employees of the farm known as farm workers, or farmhands. However, in the not so distant past a farmer was a person who promotes or improves the growth of (a plant, crop, etc.) by labor and attention, land or crops or raises animals (as livestock or fish).

In the context of developing nations or other pre-industrial cultures, most persons practice a meager subsistence agriculture a simple organic farming system employing crop rotation, seed saving, slash and burn, or other techniques to maximize efficiency while meeting the needs of the household or community. Historically, there is one subsisting in this way known as a peasant. In developed nations, however, a person using such techniques on small patches of land called a gardener and be considered a hobbyist. Alternatively, one driven into such practices by poverty or, ironically against the background of large-scale agribusiness might become an organic farmer growing for discerning consumers in the local food market.

**METHODS OF RESEARCH**

*Research processing for the various factors affecting sustainable food value chain development:*

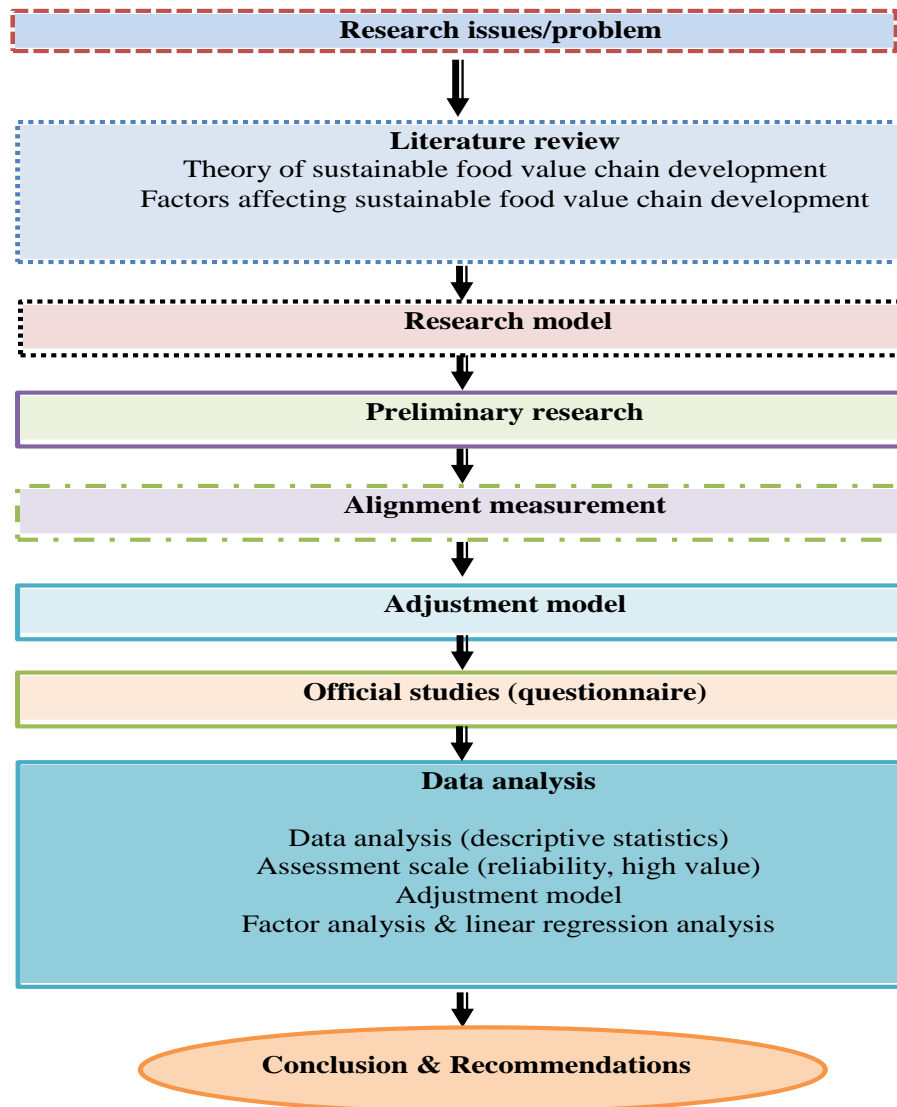


Figure 1: Research processing for the factors affecting the sustainable food value chain development

After preliminary investigations, formal research is done by using quantitative methods questionnaire survey of 400 persons (include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30 experts) related to agricultural sector in Dong Nai province who interviewed and answered about 17 questions. The Data collected from June 2016 to April 2017. The reason tested measurement models, model and test research hypotheses. Data collected were tested by the reliability index (excluding variables with correlation coefficients lower < 0.30 and variable coefficient Cronbach's alpha < 0.60), factor analysis explored (remove the variable low load factor < 0.50). The hypothesis was tested through multiple regression analysis with linear Enter method. Conventions: 1: Completely disagree, 2: Disagree, 3: Normal; 4: Agree; 5: completely agree. Data collected were tested by the reliability index (excluding variables with correlation coefficients lower < 0.30 and variable coefficient Cronbach's alpha < 0.60), factor analysis explored (remove the variable low load factor < 0.50).

The data collected by the researchers and be analyzed by SPSS 20.0. Before having analyzed, the data screened to delete outliers to secure reliability. Creative research systems offers complete data processing services. I provide presentation-quality tables, text reports and graphics. In addition to or instead of paper copies, the researchers can provide the tables, reports and graphics on disk, ready for you to incorporate into a document or research presentation. the researchers can enter data from paper questionnaires or use a data file you provide. Most interviewing, scanning and database packages can produce a data file we can use. If you use the survey system, interviewing and tabulation software, the researchers can provide instruction files you can use for further analysis.

The basis for conceptualizing of the fresh food chain is in processes as a source material. The conceptual framework of the study is spelled out in the INPUT - PROCESS - OUTPUT model reflected in figure 2.

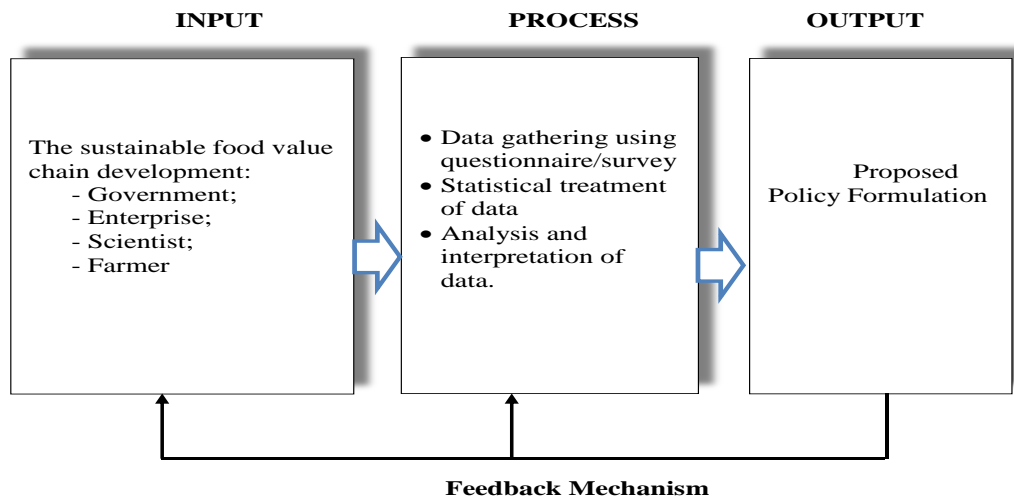


Figure 2: Framework for the sustainable food value chain development

The **Input** consists of the fresh food chain: Government; Enterprise; Scientist and Farmer.

The **Process** consists of data gathering using survey questionnaire the statistical treatment of data, and the analysis and interpretation of data.

The **Output** was the proposed policy formulation.

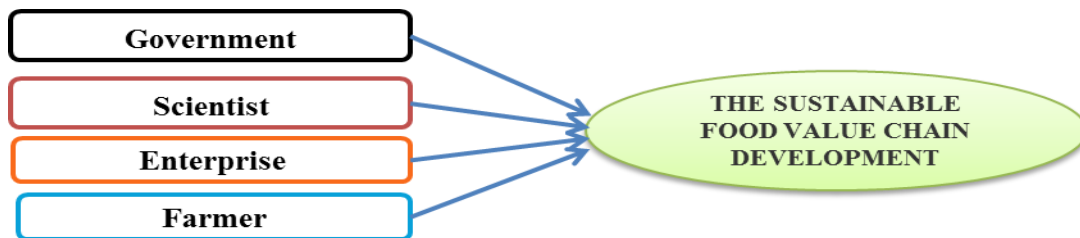
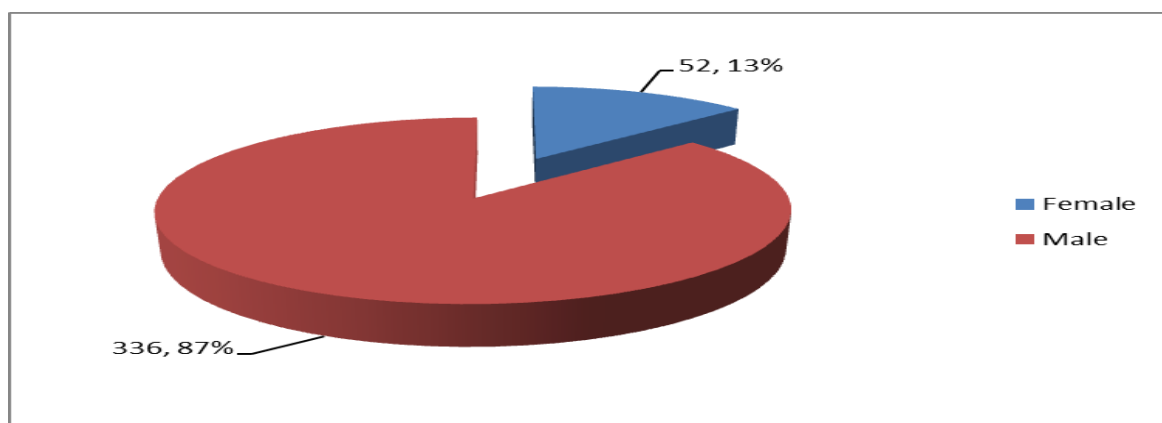


Figure 3: Proposed research model for the various factors affecting the sustainable food value chain development

Figure 3 showed that the sustainable food value chain development is the dependent variable but we had four various factors: Government; Scientist; Enterprise and Farmer that are independent variables. There are positive relationship between four above mentioned factors and the sustainable food value chain development.

### RESEARCH RESULTS

The input consists of the demographic: Gender, family status, the level of the knowledge, income and years in working; respondents in terms of the persons are following:

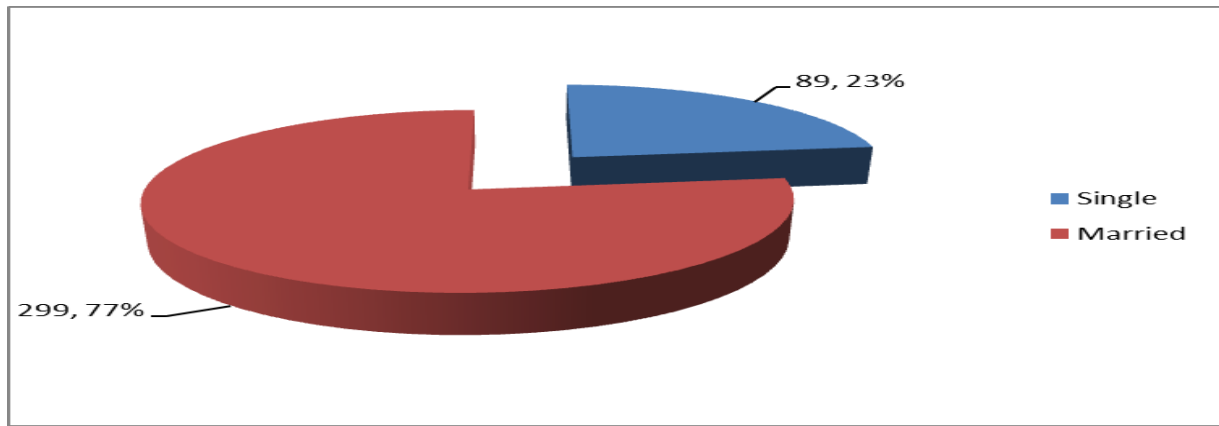


(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS, Excel)

Figure 4: The demographic for gender of the persons

Figure 4 showed that female has 52 persons with 13 % and male has 336 persons with 87 %. There are 400 persons (include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30

experts) interviewed but 388 samples processed by SPSS 20.0.

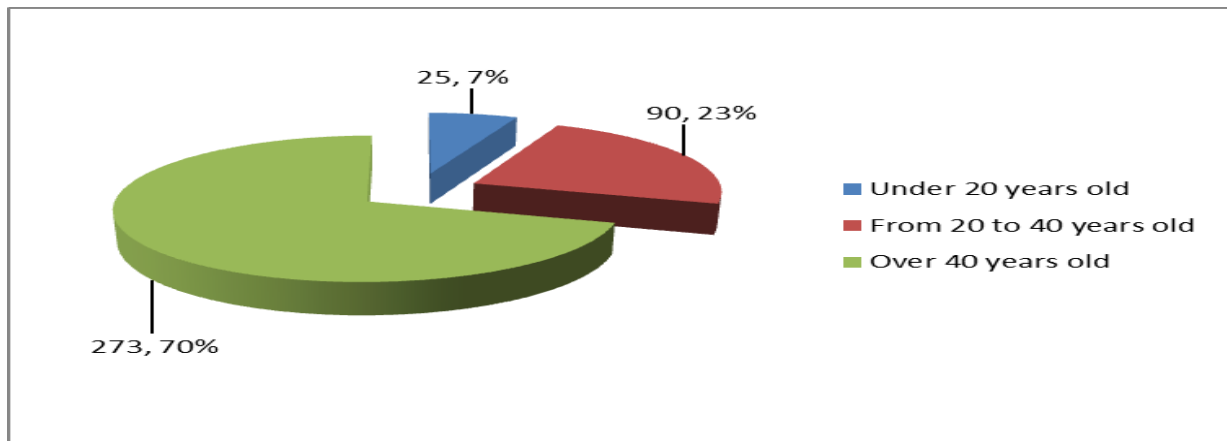


(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS, Excel)

Figure 5: The demographic for family status of the persons

Figure 5 showed that single has 89 persons with 23 % and Married has 299 persons with 77 %. There are 400 persons (include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30

experts interviewed but 388 samples processed by SPSS 20.0.

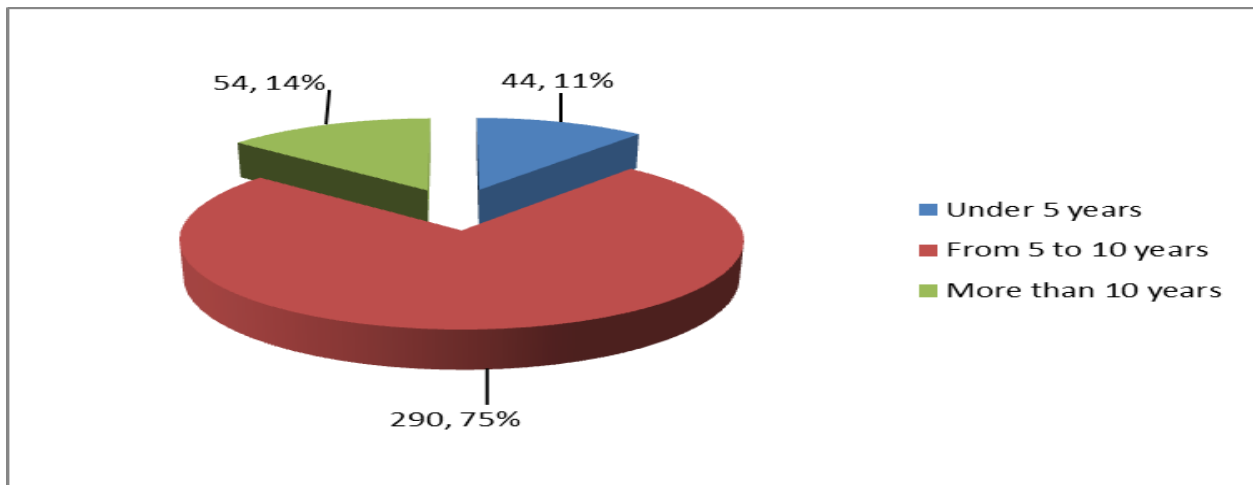


(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS, Excel)

Figure 6: The demographic for the Age of the farmer

Figure 6 showed that farmer under 20 years old has 25 persons with 7 %; farmer from 20 to 40 years old has 90 persons with 23 % and farmer over 40 years old has

273 persons with 70 %. There are 400 persons (include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30 experts) interviewed but 388 samples processed by SPSS 20.0.



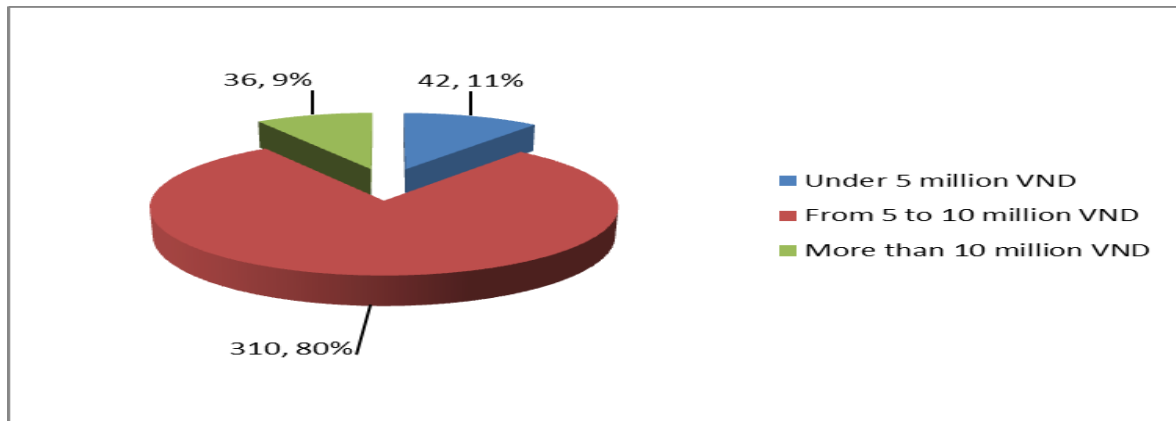
(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS, Excel)

Figure 7: The demographic for years in working status of the persons

Figure 7 showed that years in working less than 5 year has 44 persons with 11 %; years in working from 5 to 10 years

has 290 persons with 75 % and years in working more than 10 years has 54 persons with 14 %. There are 400 persons

(include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30 experts) interviewed but 388 samples processed by SPSS 20.0.



(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS, Excel)

Figure 8: The demographic for income status of the persons

Figure 8 showed that income less than 5 million VND has 42 persons with 11 %; income from 5 to 10 million VND has 310 persons with 80 % and income more than 10 million VND has 36 persons with 9 %. There are 400 persons

(include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30 experts) interviewed but 388 samples processed by SPSS 20.0.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for factors affecting the sustainable food value chain development

	N	Min	Max	Mean	S.D
<b>1. GOVERNMENT (GOV)</b>					
GOV1: Vietnam Government has been planning the development policy of the food value chain into a commodity industry with prestigious brands	388	1.00	5.00	2.9588	.88242
GOV2: Vietnam Government has been planning the development policy for labor structure along with the process of industrialization and modernization for the food value chain	388	1.00	5.00	2.5670	1.54624
GOV3: Vietnam Government has been planning the development policy to create linkages between persons and benefit businesses for the food value chain	388	1.00	5.00	2.8582	1.47433
GOV4: Vietnam Government has been planning the development policy towards quality and sustainability for food value chain and supply market information	388	2.00	5.00	3.2912	1.28205
<b>2. ENTERPRISE (ENT)</b>					
ENT1: Enterprise has been investing financial factor for modern production technology and capital investment for the processing	388	1.00	5.00	2.9356	.85270
ENT2: Enterprise has been building organizational models and associated manufacturing production consumes large scale and capital investment and technical factors cultivated technology	388	1.00	5.00	2.8686	.77809
ENT3: Enterprise has been increasing the competitiveness of enterprises in the process of integration; reduced costs are incurred for business by cooperating with suppliers.	388	1.00	5.00	2.7216	.87742
<b>3. SCIENTIST (SCI)</b>					
SCI1: Scientist has been researched the element manage of quality food varieties in order to meet the market demand	388	1.00	5.00	3.1340	.91926
SCI2: Scientist has been researched the tight control element for food disease, input varieties and materials.	388	1.00	5.00	3.3247	.96593
SCI3: Scientist has been researched the elements of cultivation protection products for new inputs and new product model	388	1.00	5.00	3.3814	.89723
SCI4: Scientist has been researched the cultivation techniques for farmers' knowledge level and scientific research activities to create new food varieties with high productiveness and good quality	388	1.00	5.00	3.3119	.91395
<b>4. FARMER (FAR)</b>					
FAR1: Farmer applied the modern product system for the sustainable food value chain and doing business by contract and linkage; respect the contract in terms of quantity, quality of product and time of supply.	388	1.00	5.00	2.9768	1.40025
FAR2: Farmer applied the new technology for the sustainable food value chain and farmers need to understand and improve their rights and responsibilities in the implementation of economic contracts	388	1.00	5.00	2.9639	1.04609
FAR3: Farmer applied the new cultivated systems for the sustainable food value chain and improve the knowledge of market information forecast	388	1.00	5.00	3.1881	1.26089

Table 1: Continued

5. SUSTAINABLE FOOD VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT (SFVCD)	N	Min	Max	Mean	S.D
SFVCD1: Food value chains address the competitive need for responsiveness to and knowledge of the target customer and Enterprises' profits rose.	388	2.00	5.00	3.3454	.65832
SFVCD2: Food value chain is a strategic business model engaging all participants in the supply chain in mission and operational shared values; Persons increase income and benefit from the fresh food chain.	388	2.00	5.00	3.2552	.74317
SFVCD3: Communicating shared values to customers differentiates products, expand market share, and builds loyalty; Consumers' benefits is from the fresh food chain.	388	1.00	5.00	3.3376	.73448

(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS)

Table 1 showed that there were 400 persons (include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 persons, 30 experts) who interviewed and answered about 17 questions but 388 samples processed and 12 samples lack of information. Data collected from June 2016 to April 2017. Mean value is

around 3.00; min value is 1.00 and max value is 5.00 and Std. Deviation (S.D) is around 1.00. This data is very good and suitable information for next step. That is Cronbach's Alpha test for factors affecting the sustainable food value chain development.

Table 02: Cronbach's Alpha test for "Enterprise"(ENT)

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.782	3

**Item-Total Statistics**

Code	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
ENT1	5.5902	2.242	.556	.773
ENT2	5.6572	2.210	.680	.645
ENT3	5.8041	2.039	.631	.693

(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS)

Table 02 showed that Cronbach's Alpha is 0.782; this is very high reliability statistics. Three of variables surveyed Corrected Item-Total Correlation greater than 0.3 and Cronbach's Alpha if Item deleted greater than 0.5 and

Cronbach's Alpha is very reliability. Such observations make it eligible for the survey variables after testing scale. This showed that data was suitable and reliability for researching.

Table 03: Cronbach's Alpha test for "Farmer" (FAR)

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.731	3

**Item-Total Statistics**

Code	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
FAR1	6.1521	4.176	.511	.714
FAR2	6.1649	5.099	.607	.607
FAR3	5.9407	4.433	.573	.622

(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS)

Table 03 showed that Cronbach's Alpha is 0.731; this is very high reliability statistics. Three of variables surveyed Corrected Item-Total Correlation greater than 0.3 and

Cronbach's Alpha if Item deleted greater than 0.5 and Cronbach's Alpha is very reliability. Such observations make it eligible for the survey variables after testing scale.

Table 04: Cronbach's Alpha test for "Government" (GOV)

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.758	4

**Item-Total Statistics**

Code	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
GOV1	8.7165	11.899	.578	.717
GOV2	9.1082	8.164	.638	.656
GOV3	8.8170	8.594	.628	.660
GOV4	8.3840	10.718	.457	.752

(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS)

Table 04 showed that Cronbach's Alpha is 0.758; this is very high reliability statistics. Four of variables surveyed Corrected Item-Total Correlation greater than 0.3 and Cronbach's Alpha if Item deleted greater than 0.5 and

Cronbach's Alpha is very reliability. Such observations make it eligible for the survey variables after testing scale. This showed that data was suitable and reliability for researching.

Table 05: Cronbach's Alpha test for "Scientist" (SCI)

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.872	4

Item-Total Statistics					
Code	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Item-Total	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
SCI1	10.0180	5.801	.731		.835
SCI2	9.8273	5.518	.756		.824
SCI3	9.7706	5.991	.702		.846
SCI4	9.8402	5.871	.717		.840

(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS)

Table 05 showed that Cronbach's Alpha is 0.872; this is very high reliability statistics. Four of variables surveyed Corrected Item-Total Correlation greater than 0.3 and Cronbach's Alpha if Item deleted greater than 0.5 and

Cronbach's Alpha is very reliability. Such observations make it eligible for the survey variables after testing scale. This showed that data was suitable and reliability for researching.

Table 06: Cronbach's Alpha test for "sustainable food value chain development"

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.682	3

Item-Total Statistics					
Code	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Item-Total	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
SFVCD1	6.5928	1.653	.420		.679
SFVCD2	6.6830	1.271	.581		.470
SFVCD3	6.6005	1.398	.495		.590

(Source: The researchers' collecting data and SPSS)

Table 06 showed that Cronbach's Alpha is 0.682; this is very high reliability statistics. Three of variables surveyed Corrected Item-Total Correlation greater than 0.3 and Cronbach's Alpha if Item deleted greater than 0.5 and Cronbach's Alpha is very reliability. Such observations make it eligible for the survey variables after testing scale. This showed that data was suitable and reliability for researching.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The development of sustainable food value chains can offer important pathways out of poverty for the millions of poor households in developing countries such as Vietnam. Food value chains are complex systems. The real causes for their observed underperformance may not always be obvious. The study results showed that there were 400 persons (include: 200 managers of enterprises, 170 farmers, 30 experts) related to agricultural sector in Dong Nai province who interviewed and answered about 17 questions. The Data collected from June 2016 to April 2017. This study had been analyzed Cronbach's Alpha testing used for the next research. Persons' responses measured through an adapted questionnaire on a 5-point Likert scale. Hard copy and online questionnaire distributed among 200.000 persons related to agricultural sector in Dong Nai province. The Data processed by SPSS 20.0. The study results showed that there were 388 persons who processed and the result of Cronbach's Alpha testing is high > 0.6 that used for the next research.

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